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Kennedy inaugurated as WCC president

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Larry Wells Kennedy was inaugurated before a standing-room-only crowd on September 23 as the eighth president of Baptist-affiliated William Carey College (WCC) in Hattiesburg.

Kennedy received the pectoral medallion, symbolizing his assumption of the office of president, from Louis Griffin of Laurel, chair of the WCC board of trustees,

the school. I ask God to grant me prudence, courage, fortitude, and justice," Kennedy said.

He also acknowledged the key role of the Mississippi Baptist Convention in the life of the school. "This college could not exist without support from Mississippi Baptists," he said.

Former WCC president and chief executive officer W. Rory Lee, currently president of Louisiana College in Pineville, La., delivered the inaugural charge.

Lee urged Kennedy to be the caretaker of the mission of the school and to be an advocate of the faculty, a friend of the student, a voice of conscience, and a person of courage.

Among those on the program bringing greetings to Kennedy were:

- Hattiesburg Mayor Ed Morgan.

- Forrest County Supervisor Johnny Dupree, who pronounced September 23 as "Larry Wells Kennedy Day" as proclaimed by the county's board of supervisors.

- Howell W. Todd, president of the Mississippi Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. Todd is president of Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton.

- Bob R. Agee, executive director of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools.

- Jim Futral, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

- Denise M. Brown, representing the faculty. Brown is associate professor of business and associate dean of academic

NEW PRESIDENT — Louis Griffin (right) of Laurel, chair of the William Carey College (WCC) board of trustees, places the pectoral medallion on newly-inaugurated WCC president Larry W. Kennedy on Sept. 23 as Van N. Oliphant (left), WCC provost and executive vice-president, assists during the investiture and charge segment of the inaugural convocation. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

and Van N. Oliphant, WCC provost and executive vice-president. The medallion was cast earlier this year to commemorate the Kennedy inauguration.

In his inaugural response Kennedy, WCC interim president since 1997, pledged to the 1,200 onlookers assembled in Dumas L. Smith auditorium of the Thomas Fine Arts Center on the school's Hattiesburg campus that he will:

- ♦ magnify and implement the school's mission statement — to provide liberal arts and professional education programs within a caring Christian academic community and to encourage individual students to develop their highest potential in scholarship, leadership, and service.

He said WCC will honor its Baptist heritage, "certainly our missionary heritage." The school is named for the 18th century English cobbler whose missionary service in India earned him the title, "The Father of Modern Missions."

- ♦ work with faculty to implement the school's long-range institutional plan. "We know where we want to go and we have a plan that will get us there. The strength of this college is the faculty," he said.

- ♦ seek to know the truth and the facts.
- ♦ be "an administrator, not an 'office holder.'"

"With God's help, I will seek to lead



INAUGURAL RESPONSE — Larry W. Kennedy, eighth president of William Carey College in Hattiesburg, delivers his inaugural response during the Sept. 23 convocation marking his assumption of the presidency of the 93-year-old school. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

programs on the school's Gulfport campus.

- Al Fordham, president of the WCC alumni association.

- Shane Sims, representing the student body. Sims is president of the student government association.

Following the inaugural convocation, a reception honoring Kennedy was held in Chain Garden on the school's campus.

Kennedy came to WCC in 1991 as professor of religion, dean of the Cooper School of Missions and Biblical Studies, and vice-president of church relations. He previously served as pastor of First Church, Laurel; First Church, Amory; Mantee Church, Mantee; and Manifest Church, Manifest, La.



PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION — Well-wishers fill Chain Garden on the Hattiesburg campus of William Carey College (WCC) during a Sept. 23 reception to honor Larry W. Kennedy, inaugurated earlier in the day as the eighth president of the Baptist-affiliated school. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

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Fighting the good fight against evolution

The evolutionists are once again calling their troops to the ramparts, this time over the Kansas State Board of Education's August 11 decision to order the removal of references to evolution theory on statewide assessment tests designed to gauge student competency in science.

It was a simple decision, really. The theory that humankind spent millions of years descending from primordial mud to apes to full modern personhood has not been banned from American classrooms, or even Kansas classrooms for that matter.

Creationism, the idea loathed by evolutionists that we actually could have been created as an intelligent design by a Supreme Being (as told at the beginning of the Bible), has not been mandated as the preferred curriculum for impressionable young minds.

The school board's decision even leaves intact the concept of "microevolution" or natural selection — that progressive changes can occur over time within a species.

Supporters of the decision were straightforward about their motives. Education board member Steven Abrams explained to The Washington Post that the debate in his mind is about the teaching of science and not about promoting one concept of our beginnings over another.

"Kids should be studying science, basic facts that can be measured and observed. Evolution is not good science, and shouldn't be taught in schools," he said.

The fundamental logic of Abram's statement is apparently lost on evolutionists, however. Education board member Janet Waugh, who opposed the changes, complained that the new standards will somehow put Kansas school children at a disadvantage on college entrance exams.

Kansas Governor Bill Graves threatened to abolish the state school board, calling the

board's decision "a terrible, tragic, embarrassing solution to a problem that didn't exist." The ubiquitous Americans United for Separation of Church and State has promised to sue if the body makes a move toward endorsing creationism — which it hasn't.

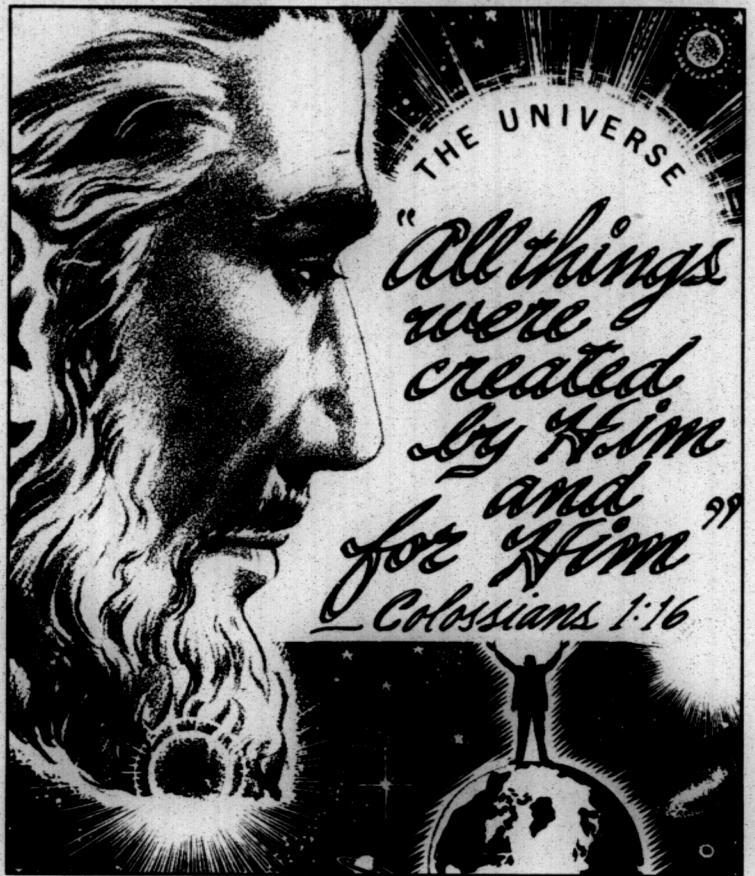
All of this over the removal of a few questions from student competency tests in a single state. A reasonable observer might conclude that there's more here than meets the eye.

In fact, evolutionists have suffered a humiliating series of setbacks in recent years. Michael Behe, a biochemist at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania, proposed in his fascinating 1997 book, Darwin's Black Box: The Biochemical Challenge to Evolution, that science has progressed to the point in its understanding of the processes of life that the theories of Charles Darwin — the 19th-century originator of what has become known today as the theory of evolution — can now be refuted with confidence.

Phillip Johnson, a law professor at the University of California-Berkeley (not exactly a bastion of conservative thought), has effectively taken on all challengers who would criticize his forceful theories on intelligent design.

Then there's the fundamental point that a positive, inarguable, physical evolutionary link between man and beast has never been discovered in fossil history or anywhere else in established science.

As the evidence against evolution continues to mount, expect the ardent evolutionists to wage an ever more aggressive



campaign for their unsupportable position. That's just the way it is with people who hold fast to myths.

As in the ongoing battles over issues like abortion, sex education, and church-state separation, those of us who would argue against evolution as science can expect to come under attack in the most personal, avoid-the-issue ways imaginable. We must be prepared to respond by offering well-reasoned, focused explanations of why Christians believe as we do about our beginnings.

With the far-reaching outcome of this debate hanging in the balance, it's just too important to do otherwise.

PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL



Compliant with God

By Dean Register, president
Mississippi Baptist Convention

James L. Stewart once said, "The supreme need of our century is the same need as the first century-people on fire for Christ." I am convinced that the most serious threat to the mission and ministry of the church today is not the secularism on the outside, but the dying flame on the inside.

If the first century disciples who turned a world upside down for Christ could visit American churches today, they would likely be stunned by the complacency of the average member. They would be alarmed about the cool, detached liturgy that separates belief from behavior.

They would probably ask, "Where has the fire gone?"

I often wonder how we can best cultivate a burning heart for Christ. One thing of which I am sure is that a fire in the heart is ignited by a real experience with Jesus. On December 6, 1941, the battleship, West Virginia, was docked at Pearl Harbor. Roy Robertson and a couple of friends left the ship for a small group Bible study that night.

During the fellowship time a leader asked Roy to share his favorite scripture verse. Roy was embarrassed because he didn't know one.

The next morning he was awakened by the ship's alarm

ordering all personnel to their battle stations. Over 300 planes from the Japanese Imperial Fleet were attacking. Roy raced to his machine gun placement but he had only practice ammunition, so for the first fifteen minutes of a two-hour battle he fired blanks, hoping to confuse the Japanese pilots.

As Roy stood firing fake ammunition, he thought, "This is how my whole life has been. I've been firing blanks spiritually. I've been faking a relationship with Jesus Christ."

Without a real experience with the Lord a person is only shooting blanks. Unless the fire of Christ fills the heart, the kingdom of darkness will dominate.

Two discouraged men walking between Emmaus and Jerusalem discovered the reality of a burning heart when they were apprehended by the resurrected Christ. Their gloom

turned to joy. Consequently, they felt compelled to tell somebody so they ran back to Jerusalem to announce the good news.

Fifty days later on Pentecost, Simon Peter ignited thousands of individuals from fourteen countries with the fire of truth. The flame spread from Jerusalem to the edges of the world. Across the centuries the men and women who have left an impact for Christ have been those whose hearts burned with obedience to Christ and compassion for a lost world.

As we approach the new millennium the real question is not, "Are Mississippi Baptists prepared technologically?" The pressing issue is not, "Are we Y2K compliant?" No, the burning question is, "Are we spiritually on fire for Jesus Christ?" The urgent issue is, "Are we compliant with the will of Almighty God?"

Only hearts flaming for Christ can sustain us through the stress and tribulation of turbulent times.

During the 1988 Olympics, the USA team was expected to win the 400-meter relay without a challenge. Our track athletes were sleek, muscular, and faster than any in the world.

On the day of the 400-meter race the unthinkable happened. Our American speedsters were out in front by thirty feet and the last leg of the race lay between them and a gold medal. Suddenly there was a foul-up. The last runner failed to grab the baton from his partner. Fans gasped at the dropped baton. The fastest and most powerful track team in the Olympics lost the gold medal because of a bad transfer.

As Mississippi Baptists watch the approach of 2000 A.D., it is absolutely imperative that we pass the baton of courage, conviction, and compassion into the next millennium.

Men and women on fire for Christ can warm a cold culture and dispel the chill of despair. With burning hearts we can convey to our nation the eternal truth of "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and Y2K!"

Register is pastor of Temple Church, Hattiesburg.

Service sees 67 responses to missions call

WICHITA, Kan. (BP) — God stirred willing hearts during a missionary appointment service in Wichita, Kan., Sept. 19, and 67 people responded, indicating their desire to follow God's leadership in the challenge of taking the good news of salvation to those who have never heard.

The stream of youth and adults was the largest response to a Southern Baptist missionary appointment service in recent memory. Those who came forward outnumbered the 54 missionaries being appointed.

"There are many here tonight who fully support you and rejoice in your appointment to missionary service," International Mission Board (IMB) President Jerry Rankin told the new missionaries during the appointment service, which was held at the Century II Convention Center in Wichita. "But they think they are recipients of greater grace because they are blessed by God with a comfortable life here in America."

"Let me tell you, many whom God would call are forfeiting God's greater grace by staying here and refusing to consider missionary service," he said. "Never forget, you are getting to go and share the gospel with those who have never heard."

Though the 54 new missionaries brings the number of Southern Baptist workers worldwide to 4,762, that still amounts to only one missionary for every 2.8 million people in the world, Rankin told the estimated 2,600 people who jammed the convention center for the appointment ceremony.

The new missionaries, about half of whom will focus on people groups in areas of the world where traditional missionary work is forbidden, told the assembly how God had called them to overseas service.

After her husband died in 1990, Shirley Whittington of Crystal Springs heard God calling her to full-time missionary service. But she asked God to let her wait because her daughter was seriously ill.

"God revealed to me that he would take care of my business if I would take care of his," said Whittington, who will serve in the central and eastern Europe region. "My daughter said, 'Mom, please go. God could remove me as your excuse.'"

"Just hours after I notified the International Mission Board of my willingness to serve, my daughter called, saying she was getting a new miracle drug for her condition. God confirmed his promise in such an awesome way."

"My daughter continues to improve. I will take care of his business, knowing he's taking care of mine," Whittington said.

The missionary appointment service capped several days of activities that included a missions fair prior to the service, missions speakers in churches belonging to the Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists, and a meeting of International Mission Board trustees.

During their Sept. 16-18 meeting, IMB trustees were challenged to lead Southern Baptists to do everything possible to lead the world to Christ.

As Southern Baptists and

other evangelicals prepare to enter a new millennium, they face a "hinge" of history — a time when the choices they make can turn the course of human history, said Avery Willis, senior vice president for overseas services.

Compared to the rest of this past 1,000 years, the last century has seen a movement of God almost beyond belief, he said.

"In 1900, only 3% of Africa was Christian; today it's 46% Christian," Willis said. "In 1900, there were 40,000 evangelicals; today there are 40 million. Just a few years ago, there were an estimated 15 million Christians in all of Asia; today that number is more than 100 million."

The IMB's "New Directions" emphasis has been designed to prepare the agency to move where God is moving as the new millennium dawns, organizing missionaries to develop and implement strategies to take the gospel to those who have never heard and to set in motion a harvest wherever God has prepared it, Willis said.

"We stand on the threshold of a new millennium. I believe

God has been preparing us for this time," he said. "We dare not miss it."

God is launching church-planting movements in Last Frontier countries the world over, said Rodney Hammer, the new regional leader for IMB work in central and eastern Europe. In many of those countries, local believers are paying a high cost for that growth in imprisonment and even death. Like them, Southern Baptists must be willing to do whatever it takes to spread the good news of God's salvation, he said.

"It doesn't say much to Christians who lay their lives on the line to hear Southern Baptists debating whether or not it's appropriate to share the gospel in their countries," Hammer said.



ANSWERING HIS CALL

After her husband died in 1990, Shirley Whittington of Crystal Springs heard God calling her to full-time missionary service. Whittington was among 54 new Southern Baptist missionaries appointed by the International Mission Board Sept. 19 in Wichita, Kan. (BP photo by Sandy King)



WILLING — God stirred willing hearts during a Southern Baptist missionary appointment service in Wichita, Kan., Sept. 19, and 67 people — the largest number in recent memory — indicated their desire to follow God's leadership in the enormous task of taking the good news of salvation to those who have never heard. The appointment of 54 new missionaries raised the number of International Mission Board workers serving overseas to 4,762. (BP photo by Sandy King)

Looking back

10 years ago

Mt. Zion Church, Lincoln Association, captures the third annual National Fellowship of Baptist Men's Softball Championship in Jackson. Mt. Zion lost the first game of the tournament by one run to Bellevue Church, Memphis, and had to win six consecutive games to claim the title.

20 years ago

A group of 1,153 Royal Ambassadors, grades 1-12, gather on the Mississippi College campus in Clinton for activities and inspiration for the first R.A. Day. The event is sponsored by the Mississippi Brotherhood Department in cooperation with Mississippi College.

50 years ago

Thompson and Tangipahoa Churches of Pike County, along with East Fork Church of Amite County, organizes a basketball league. Games and practice sessions will be held on Monday nights in the Marshall High School gym, with a mid-season tournament planned for December.



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

Record

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Teens to take stand for moral purity

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — More than 2,500 teens are planning to take a public stand for moral purity Oct. 2 by walking across the Golden Gate Bridge carrying thousands of signed True Love Waits pledge cards. The youth participating in the event will represent thousands of other teens who have mailed in their signed pledge for participation in the latest teen sexual abstinence campaign, Crossing Bridges with Purity, said Jimmy Hester, coordinator for the campaign.

The California Southern Baptist Convention is coordinating the ministry effort — called Bridge the Bay Ministry Projects — on Oct. 2, which will end with Joy Fest, a Christian music festival. Hester anticipates the 2,500 teens will make a mile-long display at the park on the other side of Golden Gate Bridge.

'99 Mississippi Baptist Pastors' Conference

"Harvesting the Field of Souls"

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25 • FIRST CHURCH, JACKSON



Butler



Johnson



Mitchell



Lewis

AFTERNOON SESSION

1:30 Welcome and Prayer
Jim Butler, pastor
Trinity Church, Southaven

1:35 Celebration in Song
Trinity Church music ministry

1:45 Message
Richard Johnson, pastor
Tate Church, Corinth

2:15 Celebration in Song
Trinity Church music ministry

2:25 FAITH Testimony
Tommy Mitchell, pastor
First Church, Pearl

2:30 Message
James Lewis, pastor
Carriage Hills Church,
Southaven

"This year's Mississippi Baptist Pastors' Conference is an event you will not want to miss. I have invited pastors from all parts of our state to challenge us in the area of evangelism. We will hear testimonies of how God is working in an unusual way in two of our state churches. Our evening speakers are simply the most gifted communicators in the entire Southern Baptist Convention. This conference could be the turning point in your life and ministry." — Jim Butler, president of the Mississippi Baptist Pastors' Conference and pastor of Trinity Church, Southaven.

3:00 Celebration in Song
Trinity Church music ministry

Offering
Election of Officers

3:20 Message
Eric Thomas, pastor
First Church, Vicksburg

3:50 Celebration in Song
Trinity Church music ministry

4:00 Message
Arthur Siggers, pastor
Mt. Olive Church, Hattiesburg

EVENING SESSION

6:40 Welcome and Prayer
Jim Butler

6:45 Special Concert
Celebration Choir
Trinity Church

7:15 Message
Bill Stafford, evangelist
Chattanooga, Tenn.

7:45 Celebration in Song
Trinity Church music ministry

7:50 Message
Paige Patterson, president
Southern Baptist Convention

8:20 Celebration in Song
Trinity Church
music ministry

Testimony
Wayne Marshall, pastor
Longview Hts. Church,
Olive Branch

Offering
8:35 Special Music
Celebration Choir
Trinity Church

8:45 Message
Junior Hill, evangelist
Hartselle, Ala.

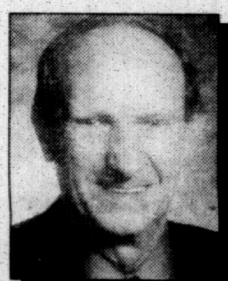
9:15 Benediction
Richard Johnson



Thomas



Siggers



Stafford



Patterson



Marshall



Hill

Picayune choir explores partnership missions

Billy Bob Dempsey, minister of music at First Church, Picayune, was praying about a destination for his student choir, BASICS, when he came to Jackson for the Mississippi Baptist Convention in October of last year. It was there that Dempsey learned of the new missions partnership between Mississippi Baptists and Maryland/Delaware Baptists.

"I didn't know where the Lord would have us go," he said. "When the partnership with Maryland/Delaware was announced, I knew."

The BASICS student choir of First Church, Picayune, toured Maryland and Delaware July 6-16 as part of the Mississippi missions partnership.

Dempsey contacted Bill Crowe, director of missions for Howard Association in Maryland. Crowe paired the choir with Friendship Church of Sykesville, First Church of Gaithersburg, and The Helping Hand Mission, Baltimore.

They also visited Seaside Church in Lewes, Delaware, which is

just down the road from Rehoboth Beach, one of the largest recreation areas on the eastern seaboard. Though the church had a new building, the pastor wanted as much visibility as possible, Dempsey said, so the concert was held outside. The church's property backed up to a recreational vehicle park. Several people brought out lawn chairs and listened, according to Dempsey.

The choir tour included concerts at Greenwood Forest Church in Cary, North Carolina; the International Mission Board in Richmond, Va.; Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington DC; the U. S. Capitol; and Baptist Church of Beaufort, South Carolina.

Churches were not the only ministry venue for the choir. They even did a concert for an associational youth event in a horse barn.

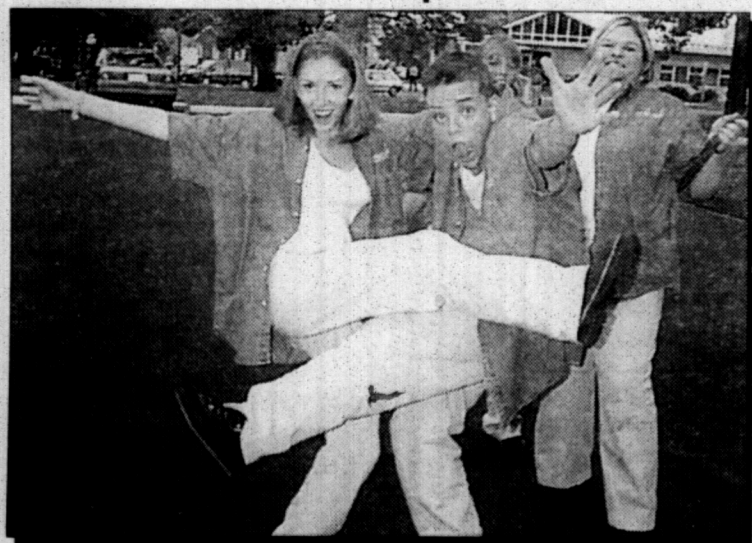
"It was hot and it was smelly, but the fellowship was sweet," said Dempsey. "The kids were willing to sing anywhere, anytime."

"I thought that these churches' greatest needs would be buildings and tangible things, but what they really need is encouragement — especially the pastors," Dempsey said.

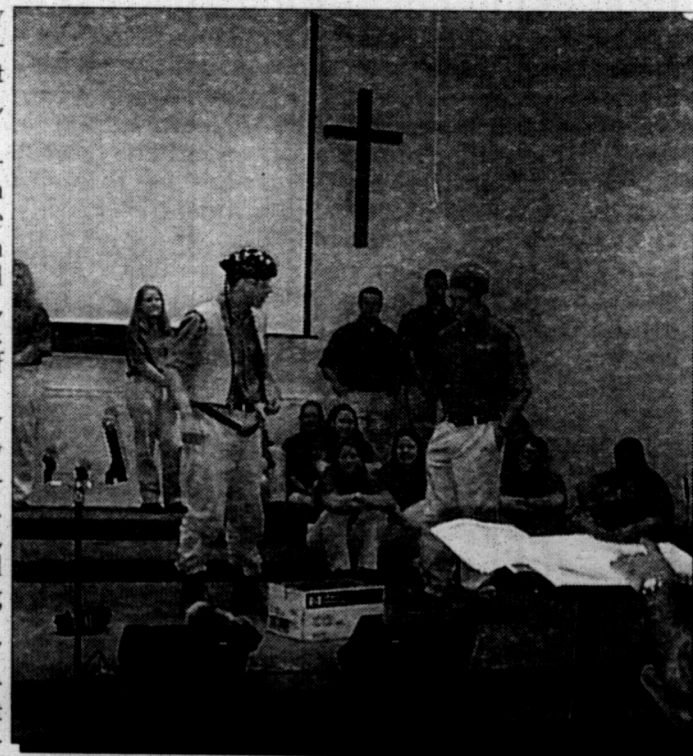
"It is tough starting a church from scratch. They need not only our prayers, but our touch, too."

Pastor Mark Massey of Friendship Church, Sykesville, gave the choir a message to take back to Mississippi.

"Tell the folks in Mississippi that we want and need their help," Massey said.



LOOSENING UP — Rebecca Butler and Jonathan Toler of the BASICS Student Choir from First Church, Picayune, loosen up after a concert at First Church, Gaithersburg, MD, while Brooke Smith (back) and Karen Sheffield (right) look on. (BR Special Photo)



DRAMA OUTREACH — Jonathan Toler (standing, left) and Jonathan Seal (standing, right) of the BASICS Student Choir from First Church, Picayune, perform a drama at Friendship Church, Sykesville, MD. (BR Special Photo)

College students gather for '99 conference

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

Nearly 1,200 college students filled the sanctuary of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, Sept. 24-25 for the 1999 College Student Conference, according to Jerry Merriman, director of the student work department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

Students approved a summer missions budget of over \$170,000 and a goal to send 145 summer missionaries in the year 2000.

In addition, they dedicated next year's summer missions program to the memory of John Weems, a Delta State University student who died June 18 in a swimming accident while serving as a Baptist Student Union (BSU) summer missionary to Mexico.

"We exceeded our highest expectations in every way," Merriman said of the weekend event.

"Darko (Velichkovski) and his testimony stands out as one of the highlights of the weekend," said Anna Teel, a senior at Baptist-affiliated Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain and state BSU President.

Darko Velichkovski, president and chief executive officer of the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra in Jackson and a native of Yugoslavia, told how God miraculously brought him to the U.S. to study music through the influence of Kelly and Jean Travis, members of First Church, Jackson. It was through the Kelly's witness that Darko came to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

"The answer was so simple — Jesus is the answer," he said. "When I closed my eyes to evaluate my soul, all the monu-

ments from my communist past had fallen down and were replaced by him."

Darko went on to offer a challenge to the students. "We are too much like the world for the world to hate us," he said. "Tonight I pray that God will make us dangerous."

Debbie Wohler, a career missionary in California, also challenged the students to continue sharing the Gospel, Teel said.

"She told many stories of how Mississippi BSU summer missionaries had made an impact on lives in California," Teel added.

Other highlights of the conference were the launching of the Celebrate Jesus 2000 Scripture distribution emphasis on college campuses, and the promotion of the mission partnership between Mississippi Baptists and Maryland/Delaware Baptists.

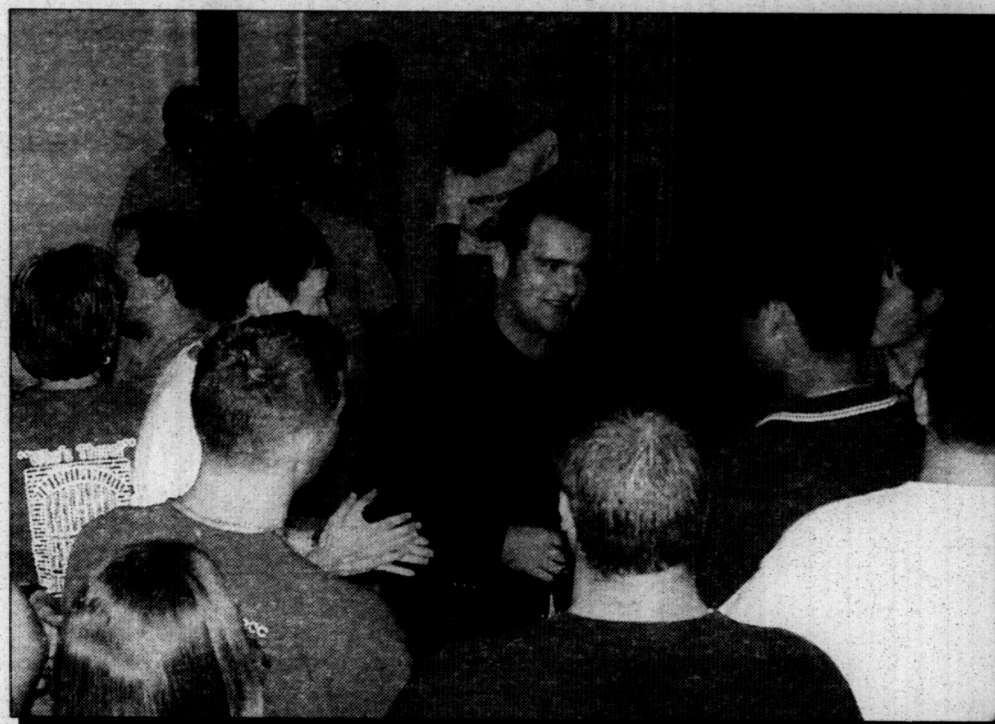
"Three representative from Maryland/Delaware joined us for the weekend," Teel said. "They helped give us a vision for what they would like to see happen through BSU."

Approximately 24 students will go to Maryland and Delaware this summer as missionaries, Teel noted.

In addition, Merriman indicated that many Mississippi BSUs will send students to Maryland/Delaware during semester break and spring break.

"In the last 10 years over 3,000 college students have gone on short term mission projects, raising over \$1 million. This is over and above the summer mission program," Merriman said.

Teel said she hopes that during the conference students accepted the challenge to see people as God sees them on each campus, and to meet needs as Jesus did.



Future student events include:

◆ International Student Conference on Oct. 29-30 at Camp Garaywa in Clinton.

◆ State BSU Retreat on Jan. 28-29 at Camp Garaywa.

◆ Leadership Training Conference on April 7-9 at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian.

For more information on student ministries in Mississippi, contact the MBCB student work department at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 292-3299, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651. E-mail: jmerriman@mbcb.org

SURROUNDED — Darko Velichkovski, president and CEO of the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, is surrounded by college students after he spoke and performed at the College Student Conference at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson. (Photo by Carl M. White)

COOL FEET

A man hiking in Yosemite National Park during July, 1999, stopped and simply wanted to cool his feet. He stepped on some rocks that were covered with algae, slipped, and was swept to his death over a six-hundred-foot waterfall. A park ranger responded, "There are signs warning tourists of the danger, but it never seems to make any difference."

The news account makes you stop, shake your head, and wonder: Why in the world wouldn't a man pay attention to the signs? After hearing of this tragic incident, I wondered what went through the man's mind as he passed up signs warning of danger on his way to stepping into a mountain stream to cool his feet.

I wondered if he thought maybe the park authorities just didn't like him and wanted to ban him from having a pleasant experience in the cool water. Maybe he reasoned that his feet were hurting so badly that he would just do what he wanted in order to find the relief he sought. The result was not cool feet but a lost life.

It would be wrong, though, for us to look at him as being an example of stupidity or the exception because he is, in many ways, all of us. Our wonderful and loving God handed down to humanity ten grand commandments. They are simple, they are profound, and they are warnings in our world.

Yet many people walk past



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

them doing whatever they want to do, ignoring them as though they think God is a stern "fun-robber" who really does not understand life at all.

Others ignore the commandments, reasoning that because they have a desire, an urge, or a need, that gives them a right to simply pay no attention to what God says and only pay attention to what they want in order to be gratified.

In days gone by there was an expressed philosophy that has become an unwritten rule that guides all too many lives: "If it feels good, do it!" The truth is, God is guarding us. He knows there are slippery rocks and he knows there are killer waterfalls just beyond that personal pleasure-seeking where we could go over the cliff and die.

Certainly no one thinks that just passing up a warning sign and doing what they want to do is dangerous, and at the moment it may not be. Think about the youngster who sits in class and decides to ignore the warning sign that says, "Thou shalt not steal." He passes by that warning and steals the answers to the test from the kid

sitting nearby. It looks like no big deal because at the moment the results will be positive — he will get a good grade, he will not be embarrassed, and he certainly didn't have to put in the hard work of thinking and studying. He didn't have to put up with the mental strain of acquiring information. Instead he decided it was really no big deal, just taking an idea from someone else and using it as though it were your own. At the moment it seemed to be "cool water" on "sore feet," but time passes by and the multiplicity of things that can hurt are ahead. What if, by chance, in a critical moment of life, you need that information that you didn't attain and don't retain?

What happens as you move along in life and you realize that you have lost the initiative of studying and gaining on your own? What happens, if in time, others are dependent on you knowing something that you took but don't have? What seems so easy, so right, so self-satisfying at the moment, can and — whether we realize it or not — will have devastating effects in time to come.

Whether we are able to understand all of the complexities resulting from ignoring God's law or not, they are still there and they have far-reaching effects.

No, God is not trying to keep us from having something good. God is trying to steer us from those things that are bad.

I have marked it down and underlined it a half dozen times — the law cannot save us. In fact, in directing us away from the things that are harmful, it is also pointing us to the only one that can rescue us. All of us, without exception, have walked over to the cooler waters of life with sore feet and sought to do it our way.

The Bible pointedly says, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

So, what do we do? What can be done? God has done it. He has provided a rescuer. One who knows that we have ignored the warning signs. One who sees the danger that is before us and literally that one, the Lord Jesus Christ, has taken our sin, taken our destruction, and has reached out to rescue us from peril.

He said it best when he said, "I am the way, the truth, the life."

We have help in him. We are offered hope in him. We have life because of him.

Alleluia, what a Savior, who can take a poor lost sinner, lift him from the miry clay and set him free. I will ever sing the story, shouting glory, glory, glory, alleluia, Jesus rescued me.

CAC search to get underway

Resumes' and recommendations are now being received for the position of executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission (CAC), according to search committee chairman Bill Hardin, pastor of First Church, Picayune.

The CAC is the ethics and moral values agency of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Paul G. Jones II of Clinton retired August 18 after serving as CAC executive director-treasurer for nearly 18 years.

"The CAC search committee welcomes input during this process from all Mississippi Baptists, and we earnestly solicit the prayers of everyone as we begin this important duty," Hardin said.

In addition to Hardin, members of the search committee include:

● Ann Allen, member of First Church, Columbus.

● Jim Brown, member of Trinity Church, Southaven.

● Ralph Culp, pastor of East Corinth Church, Corinth.

● Tom Miller, associate pastor of Four Mile Creek Church, Moss Point.

Correspondence including resumes', letters of recommendation, and other inquiries should be directed to Hardin at P.O. Box 477, Picayune, MS 39466-0477; or to the CAC office at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

The deadline for submitting resumes' and recommendations is December 1.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Liberty Hill Church, Pope, recently recognized two deacons for perfect attendance in Sunday School. Leon Anthony (left) completed 32 years, and Louis Snider (right) completed 35 years. James L. Bailey (center) is pastor.



Deacons of Liberty Hill Church, Pope

Silver Creek Church, Pike Association, recently ordained Tommy Brumfield, Robert Craig, A. J. Rayborn, and Willard Wolbrecht as deacons. Patrick G. Bourg is pastor.

Three Women On Mission group facilitators were honored recently at the annual WMU installation banquet at First Church, Picayune, for their years of service to their groups. Pictured (from left) are Brenda Varnado, coordinator; Elverne Stevenson, facilitator for Emogene Harris group; Helen Wilson, facilitator for Florence Tyler group; Dixie Baham, facilitator for Lurlean Delaughter group; and Lucile Gillis, WMU director.



Women on Mission group facilitators

Oakdale Church, Brandon, recently ordained four men as deacons. Pictured are (front row) Joe and Elaine Johnson, Luke and Susan Miller; (back row) Rush and Penny Callahan, and Sam and Christy Hodges. Gene Neal is pastor.



Deacons of Oakdale Church, Brandon

The North American Mission Board appointed Dale and Jennifer Smith, natives of Texas, to serve in Louisville, Ky. Dale Smith is church planter intern working in the Long Run Association. His parents, Earl and Ann Smith, live in McCall Creek. The couple has two children, Christen and Caitlyn.



D. Smith



J. Smith



Chester Church, Ackerman, recently ordained William Wilson to the deacon fellowship. Pictured (from left) are Wilson and Philip Cooper, pastor.



Chad Logan was licensed to the ministry on Aug. 15 by Old Union Church, Lee County. He is currently serving as music minister at Old Union Church and plans to attend Mid-America Bible College in Memphis, Tenn. Pictured (from left) are Kenneth Kelly, pastor, and Logan.

LMCO goal exceeded

Cloverdale Church, Natchez, exceeded its Lottie Moon goal of \$5,000 for a total collected of \$5,471.92. The church also received \$1,839 for Annie Armstrong offering.



New deacons ordained at Lakeshore Church, Jackson, on Aug. 29 were Keith Phillips, Greg Palmer, Ken Mitchell, and Prentiss Harper. Pictured are Phillips; Palmer; Joe Crout, pastor; Mitchell; and Harper.



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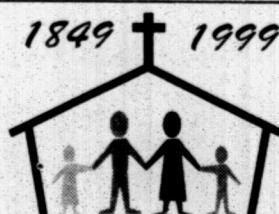
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October 3, 1999

Speaker: Rev. James Ruffin

Music: Don Buchanan

Pastor: Dr. William R. Lewman

We want to invite all former members.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

September 30, 1999

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.

Baptist Doctrine Study 2000



Dr. Roy T. Edgemon

Foundations of the Faith: The Doctrines Baptists Believe

Preview and Brunch
9 a.m. - noon

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly	January 31, 2000
Camp Garaywa	February 1, 2000
Central Hills Baptist Retreat	February 3, 2000

Sponsored by
Discipleship and Family Ministry
For more information, call
(601)968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651

Foundations of the Faith:

The Doctrines Baptist Believe

Roy Edgemon will lead our three Baptist Doctrine Study previews for the year 2000. Edgemon is the author of this year's study guide, *Foundations of the Faith: the Doctrines Baptist Believe*.

This study will be a revision of Edgemon's useful and popular study, *The Doctrines Baptist Believe*, which was first published in 1988. **This study will focus on the major doctrines of the Christian faith, including the authority of the Bible, the Trinity, the centrality of Christ, the way of salvation, the Church, and God's purpose for the future.** Special emphasis will be given to the unique beliefs of Baptists.

Foundations of the Faith: The Doctrines Baptist Believe will be revised to provide study material for six sessions. A leader's guide will provide the necessary material to teach the study, including teaching notes, overhead cell masters, and worksheet masters. The member's book and the leader's guide will be released Oct. 1, 1999.

All three of the studies will include a midmorning brunch. Each participant who preregisters for the previews will receive a copy of Edgemon's book, *Foundations of the Faith: The Doctrines Baptist Believe*.

The \$5 registration fee includes the preview study, Edgemon's book, and a brunch. Preregister on the form below or list the same information on another piece of paper if a group wants to register together.

Registration Form

Name _____

Church _____

Association _____

Phone _____

Please circle the location you wish to attend:

Gulfshore

Garaywa

Central Hills

Will you be teaching this study? ____ Yes ____ No

Please make checks payable to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Mail your completed registration form along with the \$5 fee to:

Don Hicks

Discipleship and Family Ministry

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

P.O. Box 530

Jackson, MS 39205

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST MINISTERS' WIVES



AGENDA

- 1:00-1:15 p.m. Registration (5th floor lobby outside elevators – FBC, Jackson)
- 1:15-1:30 p.m. Welcome and Get Acquainted
- 1:30-2:45 p.m. First Session – Carol Ann Draper
- 2:45-3:15 p.m. Fellowship – Sponsored by WMU, MBCB Greetings – Shirley Futral*
- 3:15-4:30 p.m. Second Session – Carol Ann Draper

*Shirley Futral is the wife of Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

- Inspiration, Fellowship, Personal Growth, Information, and Support for the Minister's Wife!

- There is no cost to you for this conference.

- Child care will be provided for preschoolers on a limited basis. Please use the registration form to schedule child care by October 18.

Sponsored by:
Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department
D. Matt Buckles, Director
G. Keith Gordon, Consultant
For more info call 1-800-748-1651 or 968-3800

First Baptist Church, Jackson
Monday, October 25
1:00-4:30 p.m.

featuring

Carol Ann Draper, Nashville, and wife of Jimmy Draper, president of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. Carol Ann understands what it means to be a pastor's wife because Jimmy served churches in Texas and Missouri.



..... **Registration Form**

Complete the registration form and return to Matt Buckles, Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530 or e-mail: churchad@bellsouth.net.

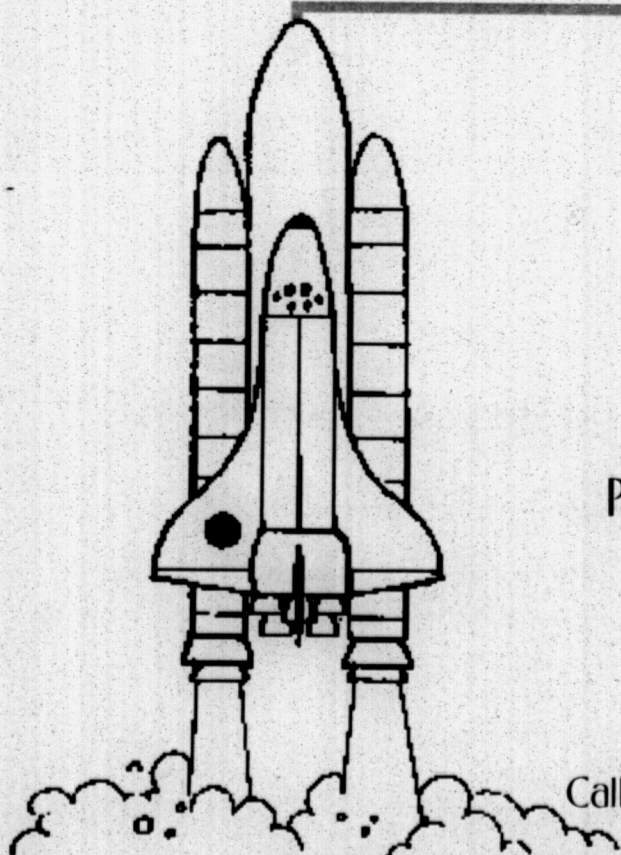
Name _____ Home Phone No. _____

Church _____ Association _____

Home Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Husband's Position _____

Names and birth dates of preschool children you will bring _____



Young Musicians Festival

April 8, 2000

Mississippi College Coliseum

Reach 2K for 2K

Plan on this special 2,000 launch festival for your older children's choirs
Order the "Children's Choir" magazine
on the winter dated literature order form.

More information coming in November in the Festival Handbook
Call the Church Music Department, 968-3800 in Jackson or 1-800-748-1651 for more information.

"Transformed - Take The Stand"

October 22-23, 1999, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian

Calling all women to be transformed
by God's amazing love and to be equipped with His power to take the stand!

Liz McGraw - Worship Leader

D.P. Smith - Missionary Moments

The new "MS Women's Visionary Team" and others will lead
small group interest sessions based on the comments from the previous retreat.

Hear the powerful testimonies of Ginger Stewart and Melissa Champine!

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RELAX!

RENEW!

REJOICE!



Liz McGraw
Worship Leader

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REGISTRATION FORM

"Transformed-Take The Stand," October 22-23

Church _____ Association _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____
Contact Person _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____
Number of Women _____ x cost per person = Total enclosed \$ _____

Cost: \$50 lodging and three meals, \$28.80 meals only, \$14 no meals or lodging

Make checks payable to Gulfshore Baptist Assembly.

Mail to: Women on Mission Retreat, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571.

Full refunds until October 18. Linens provided. For more info call WMU 986-3800 or 1-800-748-1651.

DELTA MISSIONS TOUR October 12

Delta Missions Tour Registration Form

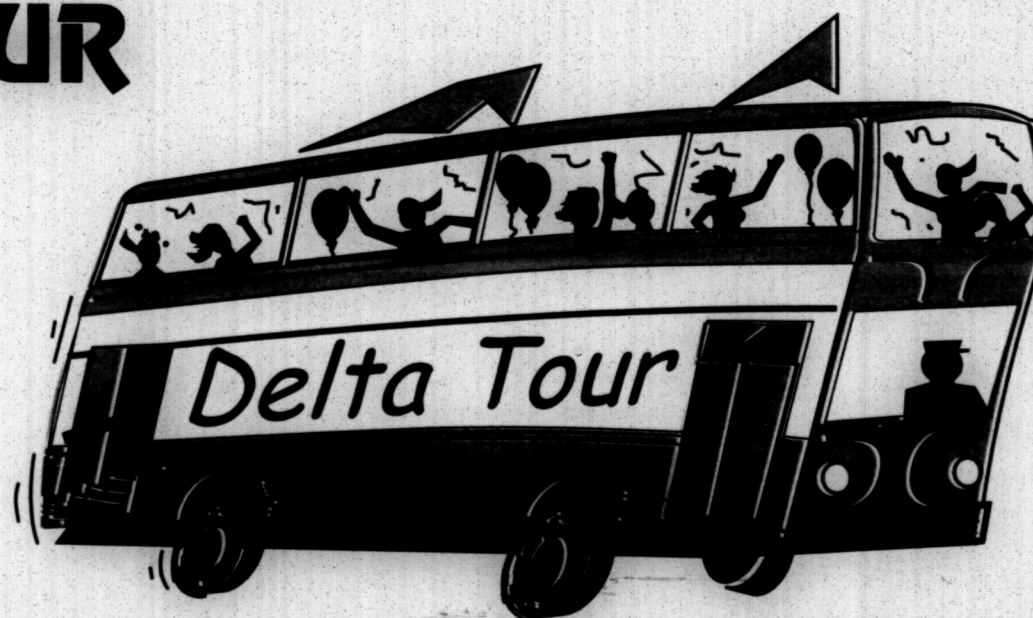
Name: _____
Phone: _____
Address: _____
Church: _____
Association: _____
Number Registering: _____ x \$25 each = _____ Total

Deadline is Wednesday, October 6.

Please return form to the state WMU office at P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205.

Please make checks payable to MBCB.

For more information call Tammy Anderson
@ 601-292-3323 or 1-800-748-1651.



Interested in missions in the Delta?
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Pray this day for...

October 1-14, 1999

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Learn To Pray On Site

"Prayer Walking" is an accepted practice in many congregations today. Intercessors are taking ground for Christ by praying in front of city halls, in front of pornographic book-stores, outside casinos and on the historic sites where tragic atrocities were committed.

For Soul Winning Commitment Day (Evangelism and SS Emphasis). Pray for peace and brotherhood between India and Pakistan. Both countries are engaged in a war at India's Northwest frontier.

For (1) Church Related Vocations Banquet, Mississippi College (Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries), (2) Baptist Building Staff Planning Week.

Please pray for an Internet ministry that missionary Paul Tong has been leading in Hong Kong. Plans are to promote it to Chinese Christians who may not have opportunities to receive training otherwise.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will remove fears of witchcraft from among the Gogo people of Tanzania and, instead, fill their hearts and minds with the love and peace of God.

For (1) Deaf Bible Seminar (MBCD), Camp Garaywa (Strategic Initiatives), (2) Missionaries Time and Jeanne Mahoney have begun studying the Wolof language of Senegal. Ask God to guide them through each session with teachers and tutors.

October is Cooperative Program Month (Stewardship Month). Pray for Church Related Vocations Banquet, Blue Mountain College (Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries), For State Church Media Library Conference, FBC, Brookhaven, (Department of Broadcast Services).

A number of churches in the Caribbean Basin Region are without pastors and spiritual leaders. Pray for a maturing of leaders in these churches so that they may lead believers to focus on God and His purposes for them.

Missionaries Mark and Deanna Ledlow praise God for several new churches in Niamey (the capital city of the Niger Republic). Pray that God will raise up pastors to lead these new congregations.

Rom Manasula is a mission division director in the Baptist Convention of New York. Pray that the Lord will send more church planters to the convention. Pray for his family to continue to make adjustments to the cold weather in Syracuse.

World Hunger Day (Christian Action Commission Emphasis); Pray that our nation will also be concerned about spiritual hunger.

For (1) Outreach Strategy Conference, North Greenwood BC, Greenwood (Sunday School, (2) Gospel radio programs are aired each evening in Trang, which lies in southern Thailand. Pray that these programs will reach many people for Christ.

For (1) One Day Mission Trip, Delta, (2) Outreach Strategy Conference, Oakhurst BC, Clarksdale (Sunday School).

Pray for Tony and Kathy Latham in Kiev, Ukraine, as they try to implement the vision to plant a church through Bible studies in an apartment complex of 3,000 units.

For (1) Student Day at the Baptist Building (Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries), (2) Pray for perseverance and continued passion among Agni Christians of Cote D'Ivoire to share Bible stories and Christ's saving love with fellow Agni.

2000 Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra



October '99 Choral and Orchestral Auditions

Thursday, 14th	5-8 p.m.	Fairview BC, Columbus
Saturday, 16th	9 a.m.-1 p.m.	Harrisburg BC, Tupelo
Saturday, 30th	9 a.m.-noon	Baptist Building

November '99 Choral and Orchestral Auditions

Monday, 1st	5-8 p.m.	Clarksdale BC, Clarksdale
Saturday, 6th	10 a.m.-noon	FBC, Ocean Springs
Monday, 8th	5-8 p.m.	To be announced, Meridian
Saturday, 13th	10 a.m.-noon	FBC, Brookhaven
Monday, 15th	5-8 p.m.	Parkway BC, Natchez
Thursday, 18th	5-8 p.m.	Thomas Fine Arts Building, William Carey College, Hattiesburg
Friday, 19th	5-8 p.m.	Crossgates BC, Brandon
Saturday, 20th	noon-4 p.m.	North Oxford BC, Oxford

(NOTE: ALL instrumentalists will be expected to audition vocally.)

2000 Rehearsal Camp and Tour — June 12-20

Rehearsal Camp at William Carey College

Register through the MBCB Church Music Department two weeks prior to audition.
For more info call 968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651.

Choir auditions will include:

- A personal interview including testimony
- A hymn solo (1 stanza; no tapes)
- Sight reading
- Tonal Memory
- Singing their voice part from a hymn (all girls will sing the alto part)
- A registration form may be obtained by contacting the Church Music Department

Instrumental auditions will include:

- A prepared piece
- Scales
- Sight reading
- Technique and tuning
- A registration form may be obtained by contacting the Church Music Department

www.mbc.org/cm/allstate

HOUSE TOPS

JUST FOR THE RECORD



Bible Buddies of Liberty Church, Union Association, were recently honored at a recognition service. Pictured (from left, front row) are ClaraBeth Watson, Seth Taylor, Hannah Russell, Ken Phillips, and Marlee Sappington; (back row) Kayla Lyons, Andrew Whitten, Katelyn Sappington, Mackensy Stout, and Boston Stout. Not pictured: Ashley Davis, Tray Davis, Tyler Jarvis, Whitney Jarvis, and Audrey Bryant. The leader is Debbie Murrah.

The Annual Prayer Conference at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, will be held Oct. 3, at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., and continue through Wednesday each night at 6 p.m. in the worship center. A light supper will be available by reservation each night at 5 p.m. The conference will be led by Don Miller, director of Bible Based Ministries, Fort Worth, Texas. For more information, call the church office at 924-5620.

Silver Creek Church, McComb, is presently constructing a new facility to replace the more than 50-year-old structure that has served the community in south east Pike County and

southwest Walthall County. The new building will feature a sanctuary that will seat over 300, a large fellowship hall, classrooms, an office complex, and an unfinished second floor that can add nearly 50% more rooms later. The building will also house a historical library that will contain many artifacts from the 187-year-old church. The church has targeted Dec. 1 as its completion date. Volunteer workers are completing the interior of the building. Any group interested in lending a helping hand are asked to contact Pat Bourg, pastor, at (601) 783-9083.

Beginning Again Seminar, life after divorce and death, and a recovery workshop will be held at First Church, Jackson, Sept. 30-Nov. 18, Thursday, 7-9 p.m. For more information call the single's office at 949-1906.

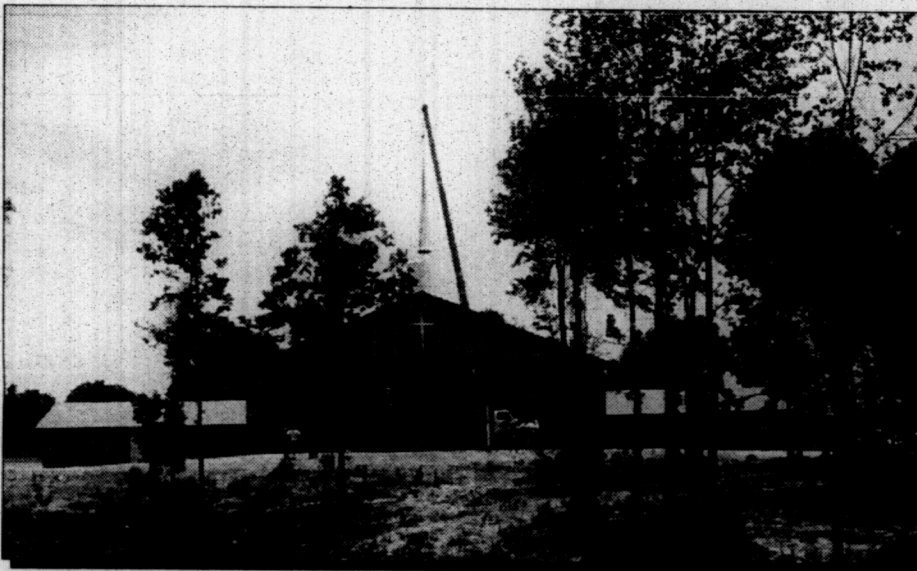
Metro Bible Study (for single adults), began Sept. 21 and meets weekly at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson. The study is sponsored by Colonial Heights Church and First Church, Jackson. For more information, call 956-5000 or 949-1900.

Harmontown, Lafayette Association, held note burning services on

Aug. 29 for its pastorium. Pictured (from left) are Robert Haley, vice chairman of deacons; Alben Gaston, pastor; Ronny McNeer, chairman of deacons; and Tommy Cook, church treasurer.



Harmontown Church note burning



Silver Creek Church, McComb

Country Woods Church, Jackson, held a ground breaking ceremony on Sept. 12 for a new sanctuary. The future sanctuary will seat 1,000 people and has a projected completion date of Sept. 2000. The new facility will also include a new preschool area and a new choir suite. Pictured are members of the building committee and the deacon body who led in the ground breaking and then passed their shovels to the families of the church to share in the celebration. Rob Futral is pastor.



Country Woods Church ground breaking

Churches celebrate 150 years

Poplar Springs Church, Newton, will celebrate its 150th anniversary on Oct. 10. The morning service will begin at 10:45 a.m. with James Spencer, pastor of Hernando Church, as the guest speaker. Spencer was a former pastor of Poplar Springs in the years of 1970-1975. Jason Rains will direct the music. A covered dish lunch is planned for the noon hour. Charles Bonner is pastor.

Siloam Church, West Point, which once met in a one-room wood frame building, will commemorate its 150th anniversary on Oct. 9 and 10. Former vocalists and musicians are among featured guests for Saturday's program that begins at 4 p.m. Beginning at 10 a.m. on Sunday, former pastors will address the congregation. Clifton Perkins of Clinton, will deliver the message and Rell Webber of Jackson, will lead the music. Payton Myers is interim pastor.

Revival results

Sardis, Philadelphia: Aug. 29-Sept. 1; five professions of faith; Joel Carwile, Hazel Green, Ala., evangelist; Terri Donald and Richard Boykin, music; Stacy Madison, interim pastor.

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**SENIOR ADULT
CELEBRATIONS
2000**

Baptists swing into action after earthquake

TAIPEI, Taiwan (BP) — Baptists and other Christian groups began ministering to survivors almost immediately after

Baptist missionary Hal Cunyningham, crisis manager for International Mission Board (IMB) personnel in Taiwan.

"At the hospitals they are ministering to families, taking them food, clothing, and water, and providing a Christian presence. Twenty-five local Baptist seminary students are assisting with the hospital visits to minister to victims and their families."

The IMB mission organization in Taiwan donated cash to help the group buy relief supplies and may request additional Southern Baptist aid funds for other efforts. Taipei Baptist pastor Yen Tsu Min coordinates "Guardian Angel."

Medical facilities are "extremely stressed in central Taiwan," Cunyningham said, "and water supplies are feared contaminated."

"We're checking with local contacts to see if there will be the need to offer [water purification] equipment in the next day or two. We also anticipate assisting various Christian groups in financing their relief efforts in addition to the assistance provided today in Taipei."

U.S.-based Southern Baptist disaster relief specialists Bob Simpkins and Cameron Byler, who held disaster response

training seminars in Taiwan just six months ago, are contacting officials in Taiwan to investigate other assistance.

Bringing Simpkins and Byler to Taiwan was "the Lord's guidance, we see clearly now," said missionary Thad Puckett in Taipei.

"[They did] training for Christian groups in how to respond to just this type of disaster. ...God is amazing in providing for the needs of this island."

Contributions designated for Taiwan relief efforts may be sent to Southern Baptist Hunger and Relief, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230.



Taiwan's worst recorded earthquake rocked the island Sept. 21.

The quake, which measured between 7.6 and 7.9 on the Richter scale, killed at least 1,600 people, with the toll expected to rise and more than 1,000 people still missing. It injured thousands and left an estimated 100,000 people homeless. Central Taiwan sustained heavy damage to buildings, roads, and other infrastructure, especially in the city of Taichung and in Nantou County — location of the quake's epicenter about 90 miles south of Taipei, which also sustained damage.

Aid efforts by a Christian group called "Guardian Angel," coordinated by a Baptist pastor, geared up in the hours after the quake, setting up a relief center near the site of a 12-story building that collapsed in Taipei.

"Their main focus has been to provide comfort and support to families of victims, have pure water on site for families and relief workers, and visit the hospitals where victims were taken," reported Southern

STAFF CHANGES

Alvin and Mary Doyle, former International Mission Board missionaries to Nigeria, have been approved to transfer to Slovakia (Eastern and Central Europe) where he will serve as pastor of the International Baptist Church in Bratislava. The Doyles recently resigned from First Church, Morton.



A. Doyle



M. Doyle

First Church, Gulfport, has called Charles L. (Chuck) Register as pastor, effective Oct. 1. Register, a native of Starke, Fla., has served as associate professor of evangelism at New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) since 1994. He has served churches in Cantonment, Fla., and Buras, La., prior to his service at NOBTS.



Register

John Rushing has been called as minister of youth and Adrian Wood has been called as minister of music at Silver Creek Church, Pike County. Patrick G. Bourg is pastor.

River Bend Church, Aberdeen, has called Roy McHenry as full-time pastor. He has pastored churches in Fulton and Okolona.

Liberty Hill Church, Pope, has called Rusty Fair as youth minister. He is a graduate of Mississippi State University. Fair previously served as summer missionary and youth minister of Sturgis Church.

Center Ridge Church, Yazoo City, has called Shannon Davis as youth minister.



Davis

Oral Church, Sumrall, has called Jerry Alan Jones as pastor effective Sept. 26. A native of Greenwood, Jones received his education at University of Southern Mississippi and New Orleans Seminary.

James T. Wright Sr. has opened the Community Counseling Center, a full-service counseling center in Laurel. He previously served for six years at Roseland Park Church, Picayune, as minister of education. A native of Laurel, Wright received his education at the University of Southern Mississippi and New Orleans Seminary.

NOBTS holds commencement

Commencement exercises were held at New Orleans Seminary on July 30. Graduates with Mississippi connections are:

Receiving the Master of Divinity degree was Marvin M. Farrior, Waynesboro, pastor of First Church in State Line.

Receiving the Master of Arts in Christian Education degree were Stephen Nolan Evans, Jackson, minister of youth and education at West Heights Church in Pontotoc; Hulon "Roan" Crain, a graduate of Southwest Mississippi Community College and married to the former Tracey Smith of Summit; and Amy R. Stovall, a graduate of William Carey College.

Terry Joe Edwards, Amory, pastor of Bethel Church, Bogue Chitto, received the bachelor of General Studies degree.

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

William Carey College School of Nursing is scheduled for a site visit for continued accreditation on Oct. 5-7. Any individuals who wish to make comments to the accreditation site visitors should contact Mary Ware at the School of Nursing, 498 Tuscan Avenue, Hattiesburg MS 39401, or call (601) 582-6147.

"A Traditional View: Still Life and Landscape Paintings" by Bob Schroder, is on display Sept. 30-Oct. 28 at William Carey College. This exhibit can be viewed during the regular gallery hours, 1-4 p.m., Mon.-Fri., or by appointment, (601) 582-6192.

The Music Department of Mississippi College will present Angela Willoughby, assistant professor of piano, and James Sclater, professor of music, in a faculty recital featuring clarinet and piano on Oct. 12 at 7:30 p.m. in Aven Auditorium. For more information call (601) 925-3440.

Courses offered by the Office of Continuing Education at Mississippi College are: Advertising for Small Businesses, a one day class scheduled to meet Oct. 9, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Ridgeland Public Library, 397 Hwy. 51, Ridgeland; four week series designed to help

individuals plan for personal investment, Oct. 7-28, meeting each Thursday from 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Effective Public Speaking, Oct. 4-Nov. 8, each Mon. from 6:30-8:30 p.m.; "Microsoft Access Training," Oct. 5-Oct. 14, meeting each Tues. and Thurs., 5:30-7:30 p.m.; and fundamentals of Microsoft Excel, Oct. 26-Nov. 4, 5:30-7:30 p.m., each Tues. and Thurs.; For more information, call (601) 925-3301.



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SALE NOT GOOD

Editor,

In regard to the sale of First Church, Biloxi's property to Beau Rivage casino, anything that gratifies the devil and broadens his platform of destruction cannot be good for the Kingdom of God.

David Sapp, pastor
Sylvia Rena Church
Water Valley

BEWARE ALLIANCES

Editor,

I read with great interest the article concerning the property sale of a sister church to the Beau Rivage casino. Having waited patiently for five years for a buyer following their vote to relocate, all Baptist Christians could certainly understand the apparent "desperation" they must have felt which may have motivated them to take such action, but did they honestly consider the possibility that this lack of an "honest" buyer could have been God's way of revealing his intention to override their previous vote to move and keep them where they were in order to "overcome evil with good"? (Rom. 12:21)

In 2 Chr. 18, Judah's righteous King Jehoshaphat had tragically entered alliance (made a deal) with wicked King Ahab. In 19:2, Jehu the prophet confronted Jehoshaphat and said "Should you help the wicked and love those that hate the Lord? Therefore is wrath upon thee from the Lord." Because the righteous had made agreement with and helped the wicked, God said his wrath would now have to be poured out on the righteous.

Certainly we trust it was not the "intent" of this dear sister church to make any "deal" that would help the wicked gam-

bling industry, but only to prosper God's church through this seeming mutually beneficial arrangement. Jehoshaphat was equally convinced he was doing the right thing before God, since it "seemed" to be a mutually beneficial deal, but God's ensuing wrath upon Jehoshaphat and his people came in the form of political invasion and commercial bankruptcies (20:1,37).

Stephen Forfer
Mize

SAD DEVELOPMENT

Editor,

I am writing with regards to First Church, Biloxi, selling the property to Beau Rivage casino. While I must say I was very disappointed to hear about it, I can also say that I am not that surprised.

When a church or denomination chooses to hold onto a tradition, rather than move forward with God, Mark 7:13 says that they "make the Word of God of no effect." A searing of the conscience takes place to the point that 80% of a congregation that claim the name of Christ find nothing wrong in accepting money from a group that has a daily part in the destruction of families and individuals.

What would the leadership say to someone who wants an explanation as to how our denomination can condemn gambling, yet turn around and do business with them? What effect will this have on the cause of Christ? What is even more disturbing and confusing than the actual sale itself, is a statement made in an article in the Aug. 29 edition of the Clarion Ledger that without the sale of the property to the casino, building a 10-million dollar structure would be "impossible." Are they building a VFW hall or the Church of the

Lord Jesus Christ? The Lord himself said in Matt. 19:26, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

This is a sad development, and one that brings to my mind 1 Cor. 2:5, "that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of man, but in the power of God."

Michael Corley
Kosciusko

NEED PASTOR INFO

Editor,

The Jerusalem Church, Kosciusko, will celebrate 150 years of service on Oct. 9-10. We are still attempting to locate any former pastors or members of their families who might give us some information about our pastors.

Former pastors include: W.W. Nash, William Dorrell, William McMurtry, R.G. Barrett, J.W. Sims, D.L. Wilson, Joel L. Wilson, H.M. Whitten, L.A. Roebuck, J.P. Neal, W.J. McPhail, J.W. White, G.W. Smith, Ted Clark, J.L. Moore, B.E. Padgett, C.R. Wicker, Charles Long, Allen Steeleman, J.C. Hawthorne, C.A. Smith, and Sammy Ray. We are in communication with pastors and/or families of Nash, D.L. Wilson, Joel L. Wilson, Roebuck, Moore, Long, Smith, and Ray.

To all former members, we extend to you an invitation to join us for this memorable event. Our spiritual celebration begins on Saturday at 4 p.m. On Sunday the worship service begins at 10:30 a.m., followed by a covered dish meal, and concludes with program of music in the afternoon. Any correspondence from former members will be appreciated and acknowledged. Send to: Rt. 4, Box 392, Kosciusko, MS 39090. E-mail: eopet@kopower.com.

Ellen O. Pettit
Kosciusko

BUDGET STARTS AT HOME

Editor,

In a letter in the September 16 issue of The Baptist Record, the writer stated, "Apparently there is a new translation of the Bible being used in Mississippi by some Southern Baptists..." His concern was that the proposed 2000 Cooperative Program Budget is too heavily weighted in Mississippi causes and not enough in International Missions. The observation

seemed to be that the budget preparers have either misinterpreted or ignored the Great Commission in prioritizing the budget.

Allow me a couple of observations. First, Acts 1:8 teaches that concern for worldwide evangelism starts at home. The proposed budget will commit funds to continue the convention board's work with our churches and associations in Mississippi. Our agencies will be funded and Christian Education will be supported to help our colleges educate young men and women in a Christian environment. We are mandated to start here.

Second, Mississippi Baptists will continue our commitment to mission causes outside our state and nation. The proposed budget allocates over \$10 million to SBC causes. That represents 37% of the entire budget — the largest single section.

I am proud to be a Mississippi Baptist. I thank God for the visionary leadership he has given our convention. No, the budget preparers did not use a new translation of Scripture. They just, under God's direction, labored to put together a budget that will best accomplish the mission of Mississippi Baptists: Helping to Bring Mississippi and the World to Jesus!

Gary Richardson, pastor
First Church, West Point

Editor's note: Richardson serves as chairman of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's budget committee.

THANKS, MBMC

Editor,

Recently my family spent several days at the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center (MBMC) in Jackson as my son-in-law faced his final days in his battle with cancer.

Those were difficult days for us all, but the love and support shown to us by the hospital personnel were blessings from God.

Thank you Mississippi Baptist Medical Center for going the extra mile. We will always remember the kindness shown us and we thank God for your ministry to us.

The longer I live the more proud I am to be a Mississippi Baptist.

Richard Calhoun
Cross Roads Community
Rankin County

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PART-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH. New Zion Baptist Church, 12023 New Zion Rd., Crystal Springs, MS 39059.

PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC. Send resume to: Music Search Committee, c/o Eastwood Baptist Church, P.O. Box 466, Indianola, MS 38751. Call 601-887-4404.

PART-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH - Send resume to: Richburg Baptist Church, c/o Youth Committee, 72 Sandy Run Road, Hattiesburg, MS 39402.

CHURCH SECRETARY: Full-time position. Send resumes to First Baptist Church of Lyman, 14321 Old Highway 49, Gulfport, MS 39503 or call 228-832-2159 for appointment.

PART-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH and/or music for rural church. Send resumes to: Attn: Brian Burge, Rolling Hills Baptist Church, 1386 McNeil Steep Hollow Rd., Carriere, MS 39426.

NEW PROVIDENCE BAPTIST CHURCH is seeking a youth director. Send resume c/o Amy Allen, 7080 Hwy 28 West, Hazlehurst, MS 39083; or call 601-277-3129.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

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JUST FOR THE RECORD



Brewer

First Church Sharon, Laurel, has established a scholarship fund in memory of Artis Brewer, who served as pastor or interim pastor in 18 different churches in Mississippi and Texas, and in honor of his wife Cleo Brewer. This scholarship is being made available to ministerial students at William Carey College, Hattiesburg. If interested in participating in this project of love, contact John Rhoden at (601) 428-4704 or First Church at 428-5319.

GAs of Evergreen Church, Louisville, recently held their

awards ceremony. Each GA received a certificate of recognition for their accomplishments as well as a sash decorated by the badges earned during the 1998-99 Church Year. The 5th and 6th grade girls also earned their "World Ventures" charm bracelet. Pictured (from left, front row) are Alicia Cole, teacher; Jessica McDill; Anna Claire Peeples; Paige Papalambros; Paulina Vaughn; Rachael



GAs of Evergreen Church, Louisville

Peeples; Brittany Stanton; Beth Papalambros; and Rhoda King, teacher; (back row) Courtney Partridge; Sarah Peeples; Laura Foster; Chelsea Eaves; Kayla Shumaker; and Ayla Vaughn.

HOMEcomings

East Morton, Morton: Oct. 3; 11 a.m.; fellowship meal will be served in fellowship hall; L.H. McCollough, Petal, homecoming message; revival services, Oct. 4-8; 7 p.m. speakers for each night will be Cecil Pumpfrey, Monday; Curtis Roland, Tuesday; James Underwood, Wednesday; Tommy May, Thursday; and Larry Duncan, Friday.

Enon, Grenada: Oct. 3; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish lunch; D. C. Hartley, former pastor, speaker.

Improve, Columbia: Oct. 3; 11 a.m.; dinner on grounds, 12 noon; afternoon service; Gene Watts, guest speaker; Mike Morris, Columbia, music; Ron Burch, pastor.

Faith, Hickory Flat: Oct. 3; 16th year; Larry Robinson, former pastor, Nashville, Tenn., will preach at the 11 a.m. service; fellowship meal; Bill Dowdy, pastor.

Weathersby, Mendenhall: Oct. 3; 11 a.m.; lunch; Johnny Jones, former pastor, speaker; Foy Killingsworth, pastor.

Pocahontas, Pocahontas: Oct. 3; 175th anniversary; services begin at 10:30 a.m.; lunch served; Mississippi Historical Commission will make a presentation at the 1 p.m. service; Steve Jordan, pastor; for more information concerning the anniversary, call Ed Blake at (601) 366-4679.

First, Brookhaven: Oct. 24; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m.; dinner on the grounds immediately after worship; afternoon service of music; Ronnie Robinson, speaker; Joey Elliott, music.

Valley Grove (Pontotoc): Oct. 10; 11 a.m.; noon meal; Jeffrey Waldo, speaker; Walk by Faith, music; John Shackleford, pastor.

New Goodhope, Pulaski: Oct. 10; services, 10:30 a.m.; W. C. Roland, pastor, speaker; lunch in fellowship hall.

Harrisville (Simpson): Oct. 10; 10 a.m.; Truman Scarborough, Grenada, guest speaker; 11:45 a.m., dinner in fellowship hall; Bob Harris, minister of music; Cecil Hathorn, pastor.

Carey Chapel, Red Banks: Oct. 17; worship, 11 a.m.; Don Stanfill, guest speaker; dinner on the grounds at noon; 1:15 p.m. singing with Free Spirit; O. E. Langner Jr., pastor.

First, Chicora: Oct. 3; dinner and singing to be held after the morning services; Misty Byers in concert on Oct. 2 at 7 p.m.; revival services, Oct. 4-6; 7 p.m. Philip Gandy, evangelist; Hal Gardner, music; David Roberson, pastor; Jimmy Mashburn, associate pastor.

REVIVAL DATES

River Bend, Aberdeen: Oct. 3-6; Sunday, worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; and worship, 5 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Roy McHenry, preaching; Johnnie Masters, music.

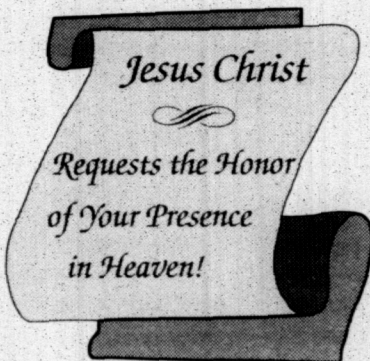
Parkway, Houston: Oct. 3-6; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. 7 p.m. and noon services with lunch; Sam Wolfe, Huntsville, Ala., evangelist; Rusty Miller, music; Gregg Thomas, pastor.

Faith, Hickory Flat: Oct. 3-7; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Ronnie Hatfield, Ecru, evangelist; Beth Dowdy, music; Bill Dowdy, pastor.

New Hope, Mt. Olive: Oct. 10-13; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; fellowship dinner following morning services; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Carl White, associate editor, The Baptist Record, evangelist; Joel Hudson, pastor.

Concord, Little Yazoo: Oct. 3-6; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:15 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; John Yates, vocational evangelist, DCAPO Ministries, Clinton, evangelist; James F. Yates, interim pastor.

Valley Grove, Pontotoc: Oct. 17-20; 7 p.m.; Gregg Herndon, Pontotoc, evangelist; Randy Sharp, Blue Springs, music; John Shackleford, pastor.



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

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1. Lord, I admit that I need you. *(I have sinned.)*
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. *(I repent.)*
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. *(I believe in Jesus.)*
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. *(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)*

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

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FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Needed guidance

Exodus 40:34-38; Numbers 9:15-19, 22-23

By Jerry L. Smith

The best man at my wedding was a practicing veterinarian. Years later, he decided that he would rather be an orthopedist than a vet and enrolled in medical school.

When I saw him a couple of months ago, he told me that he was nearing the completion of his residency and would soon hang his orthopedic shingle. I wanted to ask, "What if, in the future, you have to put a cast on one of my kids' arm, may I bring 'Miss Kitty' and 'Muffin' along for a checkup?" But I refrained, and instead, congratulated him on his accomplishment.

In this week's lesson, the Israelites are making their way to the Promised Land. With

each step, they were assured of divine guidance. God guided them with a cloud that commentators call the "Shekinah glory."

Do you ever need divine guidance, to know whether to change jobs, which school to attend, or whether your boyfriend is "Mr. Right?" Our study this week will help you sort through these perplexities and enable you to replace those question marks with exclamation points.

Visible presence (Ex. 40:34-38). When Moses completed the construction of the tabernacle, the glory of the Lord filled the place. The cloud of God's glory was a visible manifestation of his presence, and constant assurance of his guidance.



Smith

Don't you wish that God's presence could be seen? Wouldn't that simplify decision-making?

Well, if God's presence can't be seen, like with the Israelites, how do we know that he is present? We know that he is present by faith.

He promised to indwell us with his spirit and to guide us by his word. These are promises that must be internalized in our hearts so they can be actualized in our lives. In short, they must be embraced by the arms of faith.

Regardless of how you "feel," God is with you. Even though you can't see him, he is there.

Divine guidance (Num. 9:15-19). Another way the Israelites determined God's guidance was by watching the cloud that hovered over the tabernacle. If the cloud moved, they moved. If the cloud

stayed, they stayed. How much simpler does it get?

For me, the leadership of God does not reveal itself with such precision. I need extended times of searching the word, seeking his face, and surrendering my own agenda. And sometimes, I need some godly advice.

I read a story last week about a preacher and a meteorologist who were playing golf when a thunderstorm suspended play. The meteorologist looked at the preacher and said, "You would think that one of us could do something about this."

Now your pastor may not be able to do much about the weather (unless he's somebody like Elijah), but he can be another resource in determining God's direction for your life. If your pastor is unavailable, consult your Sunday School teacher or a trusted friend. These people know you, love you, and want the best for you. And as long as they stay within the parameters

of scripture, they can offer you additional guidance when your tear ducts are dry and your knees callused.

Constant obedience (Num. 9:22-23). After the Israelites determined God's direction, they set out with unquestioned obedience. They didn't ask questions or make excuses. They sang another verse of "Wherever He Leads I'll Go" and broke camp.

There have been times when I have drawn my life up in Etch-A-Sketch fashion, just to have God come along and shake me up. I find myself back at a blank screen wondering which knob to turn first! Does that ever happen to you?

When his purpose and direction doesn't seem to make sense, just relax, and allow him time to work. On his timetable, he will unfold his plan for your life, but you must exercise some patience.

Smith is pastor of First Church, Summit.

LIFE AND WORK

Experience spiritual breakthrough in your faith

Joshua 24; Judges 1-2; 1 Cor. 2:14-3:3

By Tom Atwood

"Experiencing spiritual breakthroughs" is our study theme for October. The need is obvious. For many, what was once a forceful and fervent faith has degenerated to compromise, conflict, and confusion. Not only has this been the experience of individuals but also churches and institutions that once were bastions of truth and beacons of light. Experiencing a full and meaningful life is proportionately tied to the lordship of Jesus Christ. There are various levels of spiritual life. They encompass everything from the person who practices consistent

and obedient faith to the one who is separated by sin from God's life.

Keep your faith fresh (Josh. 24:14-15, 31). Joshua challenged the Israelites to a renewed commitment of fearing and serving the Lord. They had to choose whom they would serve. Joshua demanded that they decide and he set the example by saying that he and his family would serve the Lord. Israel was faithful throughout Joshua's lifetime.

To maintain faithfulness, fruitfulness, and fellowship, believers must meet the challenges that confront their faith. Sustaining a relationship with the Lord often



Atwood

requires periodically renewing a lifestyle of confession (1 John 1:9) and repentance (2 Cor. 7:10), which keeps faith fresh and vibrant.

Demonstrate a fully obedient faith (Judges 1:1, 28). The impact and spiritual influence of Joshua's life and commitment goes on living even after he dies. With their leader now dead, the Israelites returned to the mandate to possess the land and to drive out the Canaanites. Verse one indicates that they sought the Lord's guidance in this endeavor.

Despite witnessing numerous victories given by God, Israel disobeyed him by not driving out the Canaanites completely. Through the scriptures, blessing is tied to obedience, thus, the believer must give one's self to fully obeying God's will and refusing any temptation to compromise that commitment. Israel's making

slaves of rather than driving out the Canaanites may indicate that they were more concerned about their economy than their obedience. Materialism can be a never ending battle, even today.

Reject substitutes for faith in the Lord (Judges 2:10-13). A new generation is born in Israel who did not know Joshua and did not serve Joshua's God. They turned to the false gods of the Canaanites. It is critical that all substitutes for personal faith in Christ be rejected. It is equally important to remember that every new generation of people needs to know the Lord. God has children but he has no grandchildren. Every believer is a first-generation member of Christ's kingdom.

If the highest level of Christian walk is that of fellowship, trust, and obedience, then a second level is that of compromise. At this level believers espouse a broad tolerance of pagan values and lifestyles.

One generation's compromised faith often leads to another generation's outright paganism.

Go for mature faith (1 Cor. 2:14-3:3). At this point three levels of relationship emerge. The highest is that where the believer is faithful and fruitful, having "the mind of Christ." The second and mid-level is that of spiritual immaturity where there is jealousy, worldliness, and quarrelsome behavior: "mere infants in Christ" (3:1). The lowest level is that of being "without the Spirit" and without the wisdom and spiritual discernment (2:15). This person is lost and without Christ.

Paul appeals to them to go on to a growing faith that will lead them to spiritual maturity. Those who are at the lowest level, lacking transforming faith and the power of the Spirit need personal faith in Christ. Unless one has full faith and obedience a spiritual breakthrough is needed.

Atwood is pastor of First Church, Oxford.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Holiness in worship practices

Leviticus 22:1-25:55

By Sylvia Fleming

As the study of Leviticus begins to wind down, it must be pointed out how the gospel of Jesus Christ is presented through the Feasts of Israel.

All Israeli males were required to appear before God three times each year; first at the Feast of the Passover, then the Feast of Weeks, and finally the Feast of the Tabernacles.

God, in his orderly manner, designated a time for worship. "In the fourteenth day of the first month at evening is the Lord's Passover..." (Leviticus 23:5). Passover not only commemorated Israel's deliverance from Egypt, it also looked forward to the actual significance of the act

of "passing over." Just as the blood of the lamb was placed upon the doorpost, it would later be put upon the cross. The significance of this blood was/is that death would pass over both the Israelite in the Old Testament and the believer in the New Testament.

Because leaven is symbolic of evil, all bread prepared for Passover was to be without a leavening agent. Even the house could contain none during Passover, signifying the elimination of all evil and presenting that which is unblemished to a holy and perfect Father.

The next feast is the Feast of the Weeks, a harvest feast known as Pentecost, pointing to the birth



Fleming

of the Church. This feast is also known as "the feast of harvest," as well as the "day of first fruits" (Numbers 28:26). This day begins as a means of dedicating the harvest to the Lord. Until this dedication was made, the harvest could not be used. God drew a perfect picture in the Old Testament, pointing to the work of Jesus Christ.

When Mary Magdalene saw Jesus after his resurrection, he said, "Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father..." (John 20:17). He, the sacrificial lamb, had not yet presented himself to the Father as the first fruit of the harvest (the believers). If Jesus was the first fruit, then who would the harvest be? The harvest is a shadow of the church, which will be raptured (gathered, harvested), at the sound of the trumpet when the dead in Christ shall rise first.

This day of first fruits and its acceptance brought into being a new creation called the church. Thus, a new offering had to be made. This wave offering, however, must contain leavening. Is this a contradiction? No. With this church, the new creation, there was also sin (evil). As the wave offering represented the new people who would one day be given to the Father, there had to be a true representation of this group. Though this offering typified believers, and though their sins have been washed away, they still live in the world and their fleshly bodies will continue to sin. This offering must be blemished because the believers themselves are blemished; consequently, leavening was added, signifying imperfections.

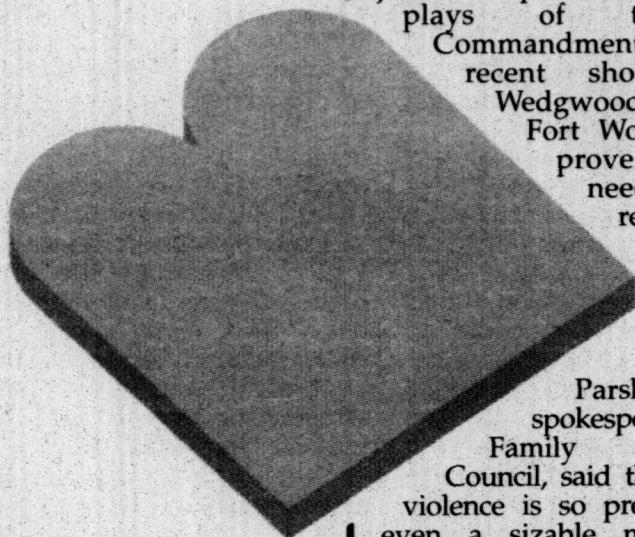
The last major feast day was the feast of the tabernacles, looking back to their wilderness trek when they had to live in temporary shelters, but also looking forward to the time

when the Jewish Messiah will once again dwell with them just as he had in the wilderness.

Jesus himself participated in the feast of the tabernacles (John 7:2-3). It was during the event that Jesus pronounced his Messiahship; "[on] the last day...Jesus stood and cried... 'If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink...'" (John 7:37-38). People were already divided in their opinions of Jesus and after his pronouncement they became even more divided. Light and water were the two main elements of this feast and Jesus used them, teaching that he alone can permeate the darkness of the world, that he alone can quench the thirst of the unbeliever; thus, the sinner must look to El Shaddai, the great Provider, and accept him to provide for the greatest need, the washing away of sin, as only God can do.

Fleming is a member of Bond Church, Neshoba Association.

Ten Commandments: answer to tragedies



WASHINGTON (BP)—Southern Baptists who have joined the push for public displays of the Ten Commandments say the recent shootings at Wedgwood Church in Fort Worth, Texas, prove society needs to be reminded of God's law recorded in Exodus 20:3-17.

Janet Parshall, chief spokesperson for the Family Research Council, said the threat of violence is so prevalent that even a sizable minority of Democrats voted for a congressional measure to allow postings in government-owned buildings. "When you have stories like we do out of Fort Worth, tell me again, why would it be bad to hang a sign that says you shouldn't kill?" said Parshall, a member of Spotswood Church in Spotsylvania, Va.

Meanwhile, the founder of a newly formed network that advocates such displays says this year's mass murders in Texas and at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., have so alarmed the public that many are insisting on action.

"There's a desperation in our school system," said California pastor Wiley Drake, who in July formed Americans United For Unity of Church and State. "Violence is still going on and kids are graduating from high school and can't read their diplomas. People are saying, 'We've tried metal detectors and everything else, maybe we ought to try the Ten Commandments.'"

The Family Research Council, a conservative Christian group formerly affiliated with Focus on the Family, is lobbying for passage of a measure sponsored by Rep.

Robert Aderholt, R-Ala., the state where a nationally publicized battle was waged over Judge Roy Moore's display of God's law in his Etowah Council Circuit Court chambers. Moore, a Southern Baptist layman, prevailed.

Aderholt's amendment to a federal juvenile offenders bill grants states the right to decide the issue of posting the Ten Commandments.

While the House of Representatives passed the amendment in June, it was not included in the Senate's version. It is to be the subject of a House-Senate conference to discuss the differences. An aide to Aderholt said that should take place soon, but refused to speculate on an exact date.

Parshall said she has fielded a flood of inquiries from news media in recent weeks. Reporters told her they thought guns would be a hot-button item, but discovered the debate

over the Ten Commandments is much bigger, she said.

"My comeback is, 'Do you have another solution?'" she said. "We've got metal detectors [in public buildings]. What we need are heart detectors."

Students are already subject to signs restricting running in the halls, talking in class, and other unruly behavior, said Parshall, a former teacher. So telling them "don't kill" and "love your neighbor" can't hurt, she said.

Across the United States, other governments are taking steps to put the House of Representatives vote into effect. Legislators in Kentucky, Colorado, and Florida have announced intentions to file bills next January that would parallel the federal statute.

In Kentucky, school boards in Jackson and Harlan counties recently voted in favor of displays in every classroom, according to a story in the

Western Recorder, the state's Baptist newspaper.

A Louisville television station reported Sept. 13 that 10 other counties and school systems in the state either permit displays or hope to make them legal. WLKY-TV said among them are Spencer County, where the Ten Commandments have hung in the courthouse for the past 20 years.

The school board in Altoona, Pa., recently adopted a proposal suggested by a local pastor to permit a school library display of religious documents, Parshall added. The board also approved a comparative religion class and an after-school session on the Ten Commandments, she said.

The Kentucky proposal will be introduced by Sheldon Baugh, a member of Post Oak Church in Russellville. He has drawn a pledge of lobbying support from Claude Witt, president of the Temperance League of Kentucky.

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BPQNCHP EV NWC
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BLHX VEMH: CACICO

Clue: U = G

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Three Sixteen.

Ten Commandments getting around

WASHINGTON (BP) — Regardless of the outcome of the battle over public displays of the Ten Commandments, Christians are taking steps to circulate them in other ways to attract attention to God's law.

Whether on book covers, bookmarks, or increasing their profile in churches, supporters say Christians should lead the way in fostering awareness of The Ten Commandments.

Over the last few years, the Family Research Council (FRC) has distributed a pair of book covers, one listing the Ten Commandments and the other featuring Christ's directive to love God and one's neighbor. On the latter, the reverse side talks about what "A.D." means as the year 2000 approaches.

Chief spokesperson Janet Parshall said the book covers have "sold like hotcakes" in recent months. While the FRC distributed 200,000 covers prior to the current school year, sales had nearly doubled last September.

"When a student walks into school with one of our Ten Commandment book covers, I'd love to be a fly on the wall," said Parshall, a former

teacher, suggesting it will prod students to ask such questions as, "You got that on your book? Do you believe that stuff? What does it say?"

When she was in education, she used "story starters," giving students a one-line statement to spark creation of a story — such as the familiar, "My favorite summer vacation."

"These covers will be unbelievable story starters to talk about the greatest story ever told," said Parshall, a member of Spotswood Church in Spotsylvania, Va.

(FRC's Ten Commandment book covers are available for \$4 per 10 covers by calling 1-800-225-4008.)

For the past 18 months, Claude Witt has used his church appearances for the Temperance League of Kentucky to also deliver a message about the Ten Commandments, which are found in Exodus 20:3-17.

"Every church service we go to we leave at least 50 of 'em," said Witt, a trustee of the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. "We tell churches this is our way of getting the Ten Commandments back in schools."

SBC leader appeals for YouthLink 2000 support

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Choose YouthLink 2000 over "Y2K fear," Paige Patterson counseled Southern Baptist pastors and youth leaders, and on the question of witnessing to Jewish people, choose to heed the Jew who gave his life for mankind 2,000 years ago, the president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) counseled.

Patterson also urged churches to send at least one young person as a messenger to the SBC's annual meeting June 13-14 in Orlando, Fla., in his report during the opening session of the SBC Executive Committee's Sept. 20-21 meeting in Nashville, Tenn.

YouthLink 2000 is the SBC-wide millennium initiative to draw 200,000 teenagers and college students to arenas in seven U.S. cities Dec. 29-31 linked via satellite for a time of inspiration, celebration, prayer, commitment, and missions.

With concerns about potential computer disruptions often appearing in the media, Patterson acknowledged YouthLink has "run

into some difficulty about that, but nothing that can't be overcome for God's people."

"I don't doubt that there will be some dislocation with Y2K," Patterson continued, "but come on, folks, the morning after, you get up and look around, it'll be the same old world, full of sin and full of opportunity to lead people to faith in Christ."

"We have a wonderful opportunity to

do something on those days for our young people," Patterson said, "and I want to ask you, and urge you and plead with you, to have your young people, your youth minister and others around you involved in YouthLink 2000."

Information about the event is available by phoning 1-888-YOUTHINK or on the Internet at www.youthlink2000.org.

Concerning his call for churches to send at least one "high school young person" as a messenger to this June's SBC annual meeting, Patterson said the idea was sparked by a young adult's motion last June requesting activities for young people during the convention.

In encouraging young people to attend a convention, Patterson said, it will "get them coming and participating and voting and being a part of the process for the years to come."

"I attended my first Southern Baptist Convention when I was 9 years of age and have not missed one since," Patterson said.

